This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A biologically pure culture of ~~L~~lactic acid bacterium belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing ~~the~~an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of growing in presence of up to about 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The lactic acid bacterium strain~~lactobacillus~~ according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The lactic acid bacterium strain~~Lactobacillus~~ according to claim 3, which is a Lactobacillus paracasei strain.

Claim 5 (original): The Lactobacillus paracasei strain according to claim 4, which is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for preparing an ingestable support material comprising the step of using a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing ~~the~~an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the lactic acid bacterium~~Lactobacillus~~ strain is contained in the ingestable support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 wherein the ingestable support material is a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formulae.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising the step of administering to a patient suffering a disorder associated with diarrhoea a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing ~~the~~an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing ~~the~~an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 10, which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding and liquid tubefeeding.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~lactic acid bacterium strain is capable to grow in the presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~lactic acid bacterium strain is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~lactic acid bacterium strain is a Lactobacillus paracasei strain.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the Lactobacillus paracasei strain is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain comprises an ingestable support material.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 9 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~lactic acid bacterium strain is contained in the support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for preventing a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising the steps of administering a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing ~~the~~an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses to a patient at risk of diarrhoea.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to claim 18 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is part of a composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formula.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A food comprising a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and

essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses

Claim 21 (previously presented): The food of claim 20 which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacteria suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding and liquid tubefeeding.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The food of claim 20 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of growing in the presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The food of claim 20 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~lactic acid bacterium strain is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.